

# JESUS OF NAZARETH.

Interesting Christmas Sermon by a Jewish Rabbi.

## HOW THE JEWS REGARD JESUS.

The Time Will Come When They Will Adopt an Expurgated Edition of the New Testament—While Denying the Divinity of Jesus, They Claim Him as Their Own, and as an Inspired Holy Man of God—The Parity of His Teachings Acknowledged.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 27.—Christmas day was selected by Rabbi Moses as a fitting time for a discussion of the character and teachings of Jesus, and a large congregation at the Temple Adas Israel heard the following discourse:

Our Christian brethren are celebrating to-day the feast of Christmas, the most beautiful of all Christmas holidays. Religion and poetry have through many centuries, vied with each other in making Christmas a well-spring of joy to the family, a fountain of overflowing charity to the poor, a spring of spiritual hope to tender souls that yearn after the kingdom of God on earth. Though we are not Christians, we can not help rejoicing in the fact that our brethren in God and humanity are made to-day to forget the petty cares and personal sorrows of life, are taken out of the narrowness of discontented self-love, and filled above the price of wealth and birth by a feast, intended to commemorate the birth of an ideal man, who lived not for himself but the common good of all, whose love of God and humankind has made his life a blessing and an inspiration to countless myriads of human beings, a purifying and uplifting power to men of all races and climes. It does gladden our soul to see so many children of man solemnizing with grateful hearts the birthday of a great teacher of righteousness as the dawn of peace and good will to all men. And we Israelites have especial reason to rejoice that the great moral who is the spiritual center and fountain-head of Christianity, whose singularly beautiful and rich life is to innumerable men the ideal type upon which they pattern their own to whom will sigh four hundred million human beings look up with awe and reverence as if he were a God, has been a son of Israel, blood of our blood, and spirit of our spirit, a teacher and a master in Israel. If pride of birth were ever justifiable, we might well glory in the fact that we are children of that wonderful and noble race which has given to the world a Moses and David, an Elijah, Isaiah and Jeremiah, a Hillel and a Jesus of Nazareth.

But here a zealous Christian might interrupt me and cry out in indignation: "What right have you Jews to be proud of the life and work of Jesus? What share have you in his teachings and his blissful influences? Have you not utterly rejected, and do you not still reject him? Do you not hate and blaspheme him daily in your hearts?" Questions such as these have been put to us in all lands and in all tongues, and without waiting for an open reply, without listening to one, they have been answered by the questioners themselves in the form of bitter denunciations. Would that the truth touching this grave matter were as well known to our Christian brothers as it is to us Israelites. Though men wiser and better than I, though great Jewish divines and orators in Europe and especially in this country repeatedly declared in public our innermost convictions regarding the founder of Christianity, yet as long as there are doubts and misgivings in the hearts of our Gentile brothers concerning these questions, it is the duty of the least among us to rise and solemnly bear witness to the truth again and again. True, we do not believe that Jesus was a God or the son of God in any other sense than all men are children of God. We believe them to have been the loving and faithful son of God-fearing, pure-hearted and hard-working Jewish parents. We do not believe that he came to overthrow and abolish the religion of Israel, and substitute a new law and a new covenant. We do not believe that the religion and morality that he taught differed in any essential point from the religion and morality of the prophets and wisest men of Israel. We do not believe that the Jews persecuted him and caused his death. We do not believe that he rose from the dead three days after he had closed his noble life on the cross, to which he had been nailed by the cruel Romans. We do not believe in the Trinity, and are convinced that were Jesus to come again he would repudiate such a doctrine with all the fervor and majesty of his eloquence. On these points we differ as long as there is breath in us. And though misery and persecution and the world's hatred were to be the consequence of this our difference of faith we will continue to cling to our conviction, because we can not help it.

But short of making Jesus a God of ending his life and death with mystical and miraculous powers of saving men from sin and its consequences, you cannot go far enough in praise of his character and teachings, that we, his kith and kin, will not gladly go along with you. You say: "The character of Jesus was holy, pure, heroic, the very soul of true nobility." To this we reply: "As far as it is possible for any human being to be without fault, and to pass through life without sin, we hold Jesus to have been such as you believe him to have been. Such an exalted view of Jesus can in no possible manner conflict with our faith in the absolute unity of God as distinguished from trinitarianism, cannot militate against our belief in one only God, and none other beside him. Why should there have arisen in Israel one more messenger of God, one more hero of righteousness, one more great teacher of love, of the universal brotherhood of all men, of the Fatherhood of God? There is absolutely nothing in our faith forbidding us to hold it true that there lived some fifty years before the destruction of Jerusalem an inspired and holy man, who ranks among the foremost men that came of the seed of Abraham. It redounds to the glory of Israel and to his latest-born descendants, that so late in his history Israel was prolific enough to give birth to a Juda Maccabee and Jesus, the son of Sirah, to the writer of Daniel, to Hillel and to Jesus, the son of Joseph and Mary.

We Israelites claim Jesus of Nazareth as our own, as one of the great masters, as one of our immortal fathers and moral as one of our saintliest heroes of righteousness and lowliness. Whatever crimes have been committed against us by cruel and ungrateful men in his name, we verily do not charge him with them. Those blind and heartless fancies did not learn cruelty from him, the teacher of boundless love. Surely

the example of the meek and lowly rabbi of Galilee, who taught with the prophets and teachers of Israel to suffer persecution and not to retaliate, did not inspire the zealots with the fury and madness of persecution. We claim the ethical teachings of Jesus, as preserved in the gospels, as our own precious spiritual possessions. Most Christians imagine that we Israelites, or Yahvists, never read the New Testament, and derive no instruction, no light and inspiration from its writings. Do they deem us bereft of our senses? We try to learn wisdom and the rules of right conduct from Socrates and Plato, from Plutarch, Cicero and Seneca; we derive our truth in the works of Confucius and in the literature of the Buddhists; we have Shakespeare on our table by the side of the Bible; we read the psalms of Tennyson, Whittier and other poets in our temples; we sit at the feet of Goethe and Schiller, listen with bated breath to the utterances of their mind and heart, and blend their thoughts with our own in our most religious life. Does it stand to reason that we who are so cosmopolitan in our search after truth, so universal in our sympathy with the aspirations of the human soul in every age and land, should utterly ignore and from blind prejudice and stupidity make absolutely no use of the classical writings of the gospels, which were composed by Israelites mostly for Israelites, which were conceived in the spirit of Israel's lofty ideas of justice, and which aim at the realization of the ideal holiness? True, there are passages in the New Testament which militate against our faith and reason, or appear to us as exaggerated and partisan judgments on men and things. But these passages we take in all charity with many grains of salt, while we assimilate to our mind and heart what is true, beautiful and good in the Gospel writings. The time is not far when wise and far-seeing leaders in Israel will publish an expurgated edition of the New Testament for the use of Israelites, from which all objectionable religious, historical and political elements will be eliminated, and which will substantially contain only the ethical parts of it, with parallel passages from the Bible and Talmud to illustrate them.

Much more might be said on this subject with profit both to Christians and Israelites. But what has been said will suffice to show the drift of our ideas, which are shared in by all American Israelites. Wise and far-sighted men will understand my motive in rising to-day to speak on the character and teachings of Jesus. God is my witness, I have spoken from the gravity and sincerity of my heart, from my love of Israel, for whom I would gladly lay down my life to gain him peace and the good will of all!

### VERY BAD WHISKY

Turns Two Brothers Into Demons—Narrowly Escape Lynching. VANDALIA, Ills., Dec. 27.—Yesterday afternoon John and Bill Kimbro, brothers, after filling up on bad whisky started out to take in the town.

They finally came up on town ship collector Ireland, who was getting shaved in a barber shop, and assaulted him, cutting him in the right side, the knife penetrating the liver. They then made their escape, but were arrested shortly afterward just outside of town by Sheriff Stralcher and a posse, and were brought back and locked up. It was with extreme difficulty they were rescued from the hands of a mob that followed shouting at every step: "Hang them, hang the devils!"

### A Brave Servant Girl.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 27.—Anna Croux, a domestic on North Pennsylvania street, seriously wounded a burglar with a butcher knife last night. She had come in late with two friends and finding evidences that the house had been entered armed herself and found the burglar upstairs. He attempted to throw her to one side and she stabbed him three times in the arm and shoulder. The burglar broke away but was captured by a passing street car conductor. When the handkerchief he wore as a mask was removed he proved to be Charles Jaycock, a cousin of the girl who stabbed him.

### A Great Success.

QUERETARO, Mex., Dec. 27.—The holiday fete, in this city are in progress and thousands of people are in attendance. At the bull fight yesterday afternoon several serious accidents occurred. Three banderillos were terribly gored by the enraged bulls. Several fine horses were killed during the performance and the sport was pronounced a great success by the large audience. A great many Americans are here witnessing the fights.

### Father Henriet Buried.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Dec. 27.—The remains of Father Henriet were interred in the Harmonists cemetery at Economy this afternoon. The services were very simple but impressive, and were conducted by John Duss, the new leader of the community. All the surviving members and employees followed the body to the grave.

Duss says he is now in full charge, and will probably call a meeting in a few days to elect a junior trustee.

### A Test Case.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 27.—A Buffalo attorney has been retained to carry the case of Wong Sing Chung, a Chinaman recently arrested on the Niagara frontier at Lewiston under the exclusion act, to the United States supreme court at Washington by writ of habeas corpus. Wong was sentenced by United States Commissioner Pound, of Lockport, to thirty days imprisonment and then to be returned to China.

### Mrs. Langtry's Illness.

LONDON, Dec. 27.—Mrs. Langtry's physician writes to the Times that she is suffering from perityphilitis. At first there were grave fears that her disease might prove to be typhoid, but these fears proved unfounded. Although her case will be a painful one, and perhaps a long one, he says it is far from alarming.

### Skin Diseases.

What spectacle is more disgusting than that of a man or woman with a skin disease which shows itself in pimples or blotches on hands, arms, face and neck? It is simply impure blood. See what BRANDRETH'S PILLS did for a chronic case.

George Chapman, Pincenning, Mich., says: "For four years I was in the Mounted Infantry in the U. S. Army, reading during that time principally in Texas. Almost all of that time I had a chronic skin disease, characterized by an eruption over the entire surface of my legs and thighs, arms and chest. The doctors termed it eczema. I had given up all hopes of ever being cured, when BRANDRETH'S PILLS were recommended to me. I concluded to try them, and I have thanked God daily since then that I did so. I used them for about three months, and by that time was completely cured, and have never had any trouble since."

We Israelites claim Jesus of Nazareth as our own, as one of the great masters, as one of our immortal fathers and moral as one of our saintliest heroes of righteousness and lowliness. Whatever crimes have been committed against us by cruel and ungrateful men in his name, we verily do not charge him with them. Those blind and heartless fancies did not learn cruelty from him, the teacher of boundless love. Surely

### NEW SYSTEMS NEEDED.

Present Business Methods of the United States Executive Departments Are Obsolete and Complicated.

New York, Dec. 28.—"The movement on the part of the house of representatives looking to the investigation of the business methods of the executive departments," said a government official the other evening, "is a move in the right direction. If the commission proposed were wholly outside of the house of representatives it would be better, for two years is entirely too short a time, when the necessary legitimate duties of a member of Congress are considered, to look into this matter thoroughly and in which to formulate a remedy."

"The business of the United States is perhaps the most clumsily and expensively managed of any other business in the world. This is mainly because it is a growth and because it is being shifted to new and irresponsible shoulders every now and then. Obsolete and complicated systems of bookkeeping that were, perhaps, all right fifty years ago are retained, though the country has doubled and the country's business tripled. It has invariably been the policy of government bureaus to magnify their own business and of every petty chief to increase his own duties. This tendency runs all through the departmental service and the result has been to make a Chinese puzzle of the entire service. The whole thing should be looked into in a thorough manner and a new system devised. It should be simplified and the rules of modern business life applied to governmental affairs. Why, don't you know nobody knows how the treasury department stands? No two financial experts can understand the treasury system of bookkeeping. The monthly debt statement defies even the professional statisticians. And as for the method of conducting any government business, it is so ridiculously complicated that the only thing that can be said for it is that it furnishes proportionately to desired results more places for salaried officials than any other system ever devised. The whole thing needs revision, but if this is to be accomplished in two years, by men who have plenty to do without the extra duties of investigators, it won't be half done. What is really needed is a commission outside of congressional politics to look into and revise the entire working system of the executive departments."

### Dynamite in the Wood.

VALPARAISO, Ind., Dec. 27.—When the kitchen fire was lighted this morning in Andrew Bicket's farmhouse there was a violent explosion. The stove was demolished, fragments hurled in every direction, a hole burned in the roof and the house virtually wrecked. Mrs. Bicket received several severe gashes in the head and her two children were so injured that if their lives are spared it is thought they will be blind. The explosion was caused by dynamite which had been secreted in a sick of wood.

### Chilean-Brazilian Alliance.

VALPARAISO, Dec. 27.—A correspondent at Rio Janeiro telegraphs that he has learned from perfectly reliable sources that an alliance offensive and defensive between Chile and Brazil was signed December 15.

### \$100 Reward \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh, being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

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Draw Your Own Conclusion. Mr. J. O. Davenport, manager of the Fort Bragg Redwood Co., Ft. Bragg, Cal., has this to say of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy: "I used it for a severe cold and cough and obtained immediate relief. In the Fort Bragg Redwood Co.'s store we have sold large quantities of Chamberlain's medicines." For sale by druggists.

Mrs. Grogan—"Fwat's Mrs. Hooley in mourning for" Mrs. Hogan—"Sure, her half brother's dead, or her brother's half dead; I've forgot which it is at all."—Indianapolis Journal.

AFTER using Ely's Cream Balm two months I was surprised to find that the right nostril, which was closed for over twenty years, was open and free as the other, and can use it now as I could not do for many years. I feel very thankful.—K. H. Greeningham, 175 Eighteenth street, Brooklyn.

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